



What the Hemp?

REACH Coalition Workgroup:

Cathy Ellis, RN, BSN, Public Health Nurse

Ronald Dietrich

Carri Ciske

Judy Hartl

Lt. Joe Tenor

Annie von Neupert, Certified Prevention Specialist

REACH is Calumet County's substance misuse prevention coalition. A core purpose of REACH is to reduce youth access to dangerous substances. This workgroup is dedicated to restricting youth access to intoxicating hemp products.



Hemp-derived products are impacting Wisconsin communities.

Hemp derivatives such as Delta 8 and HHC are commonly sold at gas stations and other retail locations in the form of vapes, edibles and drinks.

These products are created through chemically altering legally grown hemp products which have a legally regulated amount of THC, the psychoactive component in marijuana.



Many names, same thing.

Delta 6	THC O
Delta 8	THC V
Delta 9	THC P
Delta 10	THC JD
Delta 11	THC V
Delta 12	Diet Weed
HHC	Marijuana-Lite
HHC P	Legal Pot
HXC	Hemp-Derived
PHC	THC
THC A	CBD

PSYCHOACTIVE HEMP DERIVATIVES

Products derived from
the *Cannabis Sativa* plant

Each of these products is a form of THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) synthetically derived from the hemp plant. The key similarity is that they are not naturally grown. These products are often compared to marijuana (Delta 9 THC) as they have similar psychoactive properties. They are consumed in the same ways as traditional marijuana: vapes, dabs, waxes, leaf, buds, live resins, edibles like candy or brownies, and drinks like seltzers. Occasionally, they are mixed with other substances such as nicotine or alcohol.



Sugar High

Above, you see two pictures of what looks like similar candies. On the left is a “normal” product and a “cannabis-laced” product is on the right. Clearly, the packaging is very similar.

In the bottom picture, can you distinguish between the two product types without their packaging? One of the concerns regarding these look-alike products is that they are often marketed to children and may be indistinguishable from candy.



Cannabis High





These unregulated products are available to youth in the Village of Harrison



In the state of Wisconsin, psychoactive hemp derivatives are not regulated. (Examples of regulated products are alcohol and tobacco products.) Unregulated products can be sold by any retailer to any buyer, regardless of the buyer's age.



Hemp

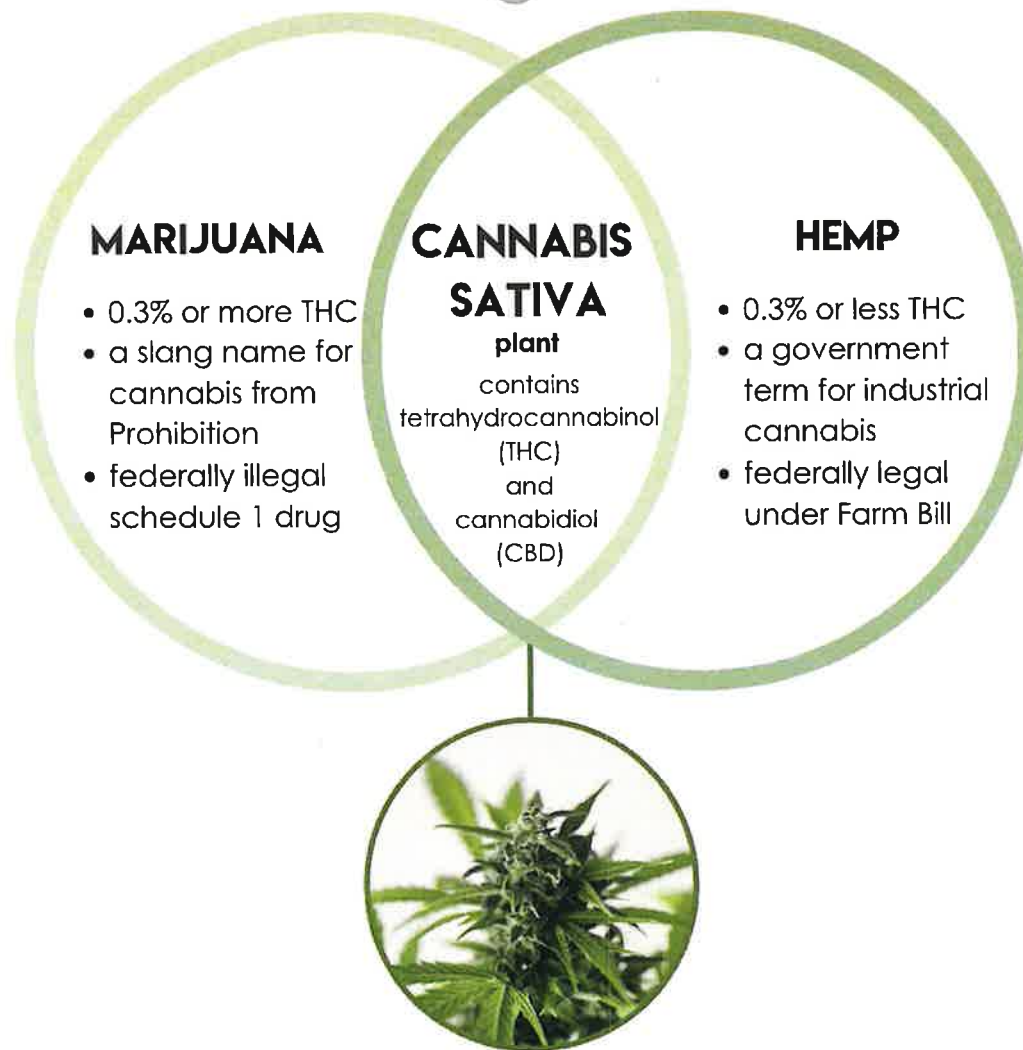
- 0.3% or less THC
- Regulated as an agricultural product; federally legal under the 2018 Farm Bill
- Hemp is a government term for industrial cannabis



Marijuana

- 0.3% or more THC
- Federally, a Schedule 1 controlled substance; currently legal for recreational use in 24 states and for medical use in 41 states

The main difference between hemp and marijuana is how much, THC, or Delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol, they contain. THC is the psychoactive component of cannabis and is responsible for the “high” we associate with marijuana.



See above for another way to look at marijuana and hemp. The defining difference is the levels of their psychoactive component, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Hemp has 0.3% or less THC, meaning that hemp plants don't contain enough THC to create the "high" traditionally associated with marijuana. However, once the hemp is chemically altered, the hemp-derived products can produce intoxicating effects that are similar to, or even more intense than, the effects of marijuana.

Field > Factory > Product



Study overview:

- Tested 16 samples of Delta 8 THC products purchased from legal vendors across the US

- The average THC concentration was 3.4%, 10 times greater than the USDA limit of 0.3%
 - None of the products were THC-compliant with the 2018 Federal Farm Bill
- No samples were “generally safe” for consumption
 - All contained mixtures heavy metals
 - Seven samples contained acetone, ethanol, ethyl acetate, heptane, and isopropanol
 - Numerous “unknown” ingredients were also detected

ProVerde Laboratories: Independent Testing Study

The “natural” plant product, hemp, is chemically synthesized into potentially very potent products. Because of this chemical processing, hemp-derived products can also contain dangerous chemicals.



Q: Why should you be concerned?

A: There is increased incidence of poisoning.

1. Hemp-derived products are unregulated.

They are not evaluated, tested, or approved by the FDA. There is extreme variability in formulations, labeling, content, and concentrations. The products may expose consumers to higher levels of concerning substances than naturally occur in hemp. There is no oversight for the therapeutic health claims made by the products' manufacturers.

2. The effects of use are inconsistent and may be harmful.

Some products are psychoactive and intoxicating. Immediate adverse effects may include hallucinations, vomiting, tremors, anxiety, dizziness, confusion, and loss of consciousness. The effects of long-term use have not been studied.

3. There is Increasing evidence of the potential for becoming addicted.



Why does any of this matter?

Middle and high school students living in the Village of Harrison are using these products inside and outside of school.

- The products are currently legally for sale at a retailer near you
- There are no age restrictions for sales
- There is no licensing requirement for sellers

Delta 8 use was reported by 11% of 12th graders in the 2023 Monitoring the Future national study.



Risks of Youth Substance Use

The younger someone is when they start using a substance, the more likely they are to become addicted to a substance.

Substance use is especially harmful for teens and young adults:

- Substance use affects normal brain development and may lead to problems with learning, memory, coordination, reaction time, and judgment.
- Substance use may lead to short- and long-term effects on both physical AND mental health.
- Using a substance may lead to addiction and/or the use of other substances.

The concerns related to youth substance use apply to youth use of psychoactive hemp-derived products.



Call For Action

REACH requests that the Village of Harrison take action to protect youth by restricting the sale of psychoactive hemp derivatives to buyers aged 21 or older.

Regulating retailers by requiring licenses to sell hemp-derived products and monitoring sales practices through retail sale age compliance checks are additional evidence-based actions to decrease youth access to potentially dangerous products.





Thank you

REACH What The Hemp workgroup members are available to present information to the Village of Harrison Board, to share resources to educate community members, to provide examples of other Wisconsin municipalities' psychoactive hemp-derived sales restriction ordinances, and to assist with ordinance development.



Appendices

- 2018 Farm Bill
- Delta THC use by 11% of 12th graders
- THC is Changing
- Data on other states banning or controlling HEMP



2018 Farm Bill

Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, P.L. 115-334

“legalizes the cultivation, processing, marketing, and the sale of *hemp* and any cannabinoid if it is derived from hemp that is produced by a licensed grower and produced in a manner that is consistent with the 2018 farm bill, including any associated USDA regulations and applicable state regulations.”

In 2018, Congress passed a comprehensive agricultural policy bill called the Farm Bill. In this legislation, Congress legalized the sale and production of hemp. The 2018 Farm Bill defines hemp as “the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant... with a delta-9 THC concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.” The Farm Bill does not mention other cannabinoids derived from hemp. This has led to the proliferation of other hemp-derived cannabinoids, such as delta-8 THC, delta-10 THC, THC-O, THCA, THC-B, HHC-P, etc.

The creation of these semi-synthetic cannabinoids derived from the CBD in hemp was not the intent of the Farm Bill. The immense variety and potency of these products that are available makes regulation almost impossible because there is potential for an unlimited number of derivations of these products to be created.

-ISSUE BACKGROUND (From CADCA- Substance Misuse Prevention Association)



Delta-8-THC use reported by 11% of 12th graders in 2023

Use of the psychoactive cannabis product is higher in states without existing delta-8 regulations or cannabis legalization, NIH-funded study finds.

Approximately 11% of 12th-grade students across the United States reported past-year use of delta-8-tetrahydrocannabinol (delta-8-THC, or delta-8 for short), according to an [analysis of data](#) from the 2023 Monitoring the Future survey, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health. Delta-8 is a psychoactive substance that is typically derived from hemp, a variety of the *Cannabis sativa* plant. Delta-8 [has intoxicating effects similar to delta-9-THC](#) (delta-9), the primary THC component responsible for the “high” people may experience from using cannabis.

The researchers measured delta-8 use for the first time in 2023 to investigate the drug's popularity among teens as more hemp-derived THC products enter the market and become more accessible. Studies show an association between cannabis use and negative health impacts for teens, underlining the importance of monitoring use of delta-8 and other cannabis products among younger people.

Among those who reported delta-8 use, close to 91% also reported marijuana use, contributing to the approximately 30% of 12th graders overall who reported past-year marijuana use. The survey also showed delta-8 use was more common in the South and Midwest regions and in states without cannabis legalization or delta-8 regulations. In contrast, levels of marijuana use did not differ by state-level cannabis policies. The findings were published as a [brief report in JAMA](#). The Monitoring the Future survey is conducted by researchers at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of NIH.

“11% is a lot of people – that's at least one or two students in every average-sized high school class who may be using delta-8. We don't know enough about these drugs, but we see that they are already extremely accessible to teens,” said Nora Volkow, M.D., NIDA director. “Cannabis use in general has been associated with negative impacts on the adolescent brain, so we must pay attention to the kinds of cannabis products teens are using, educate young people about potential risks, and ensure that treatment for cannabis use disorder and adequate mental health care is provided to those who need it.”



Delta-8 is one of over 100 cannabinoids in the *Cannabis sativa* plant. There is no federal minimum age requirement to purchase delta-8 products, which may be sold online or in gas stations and convenience stores. In 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a [consumer update warning of the serious health risks associated with use of delta-8 THC](#), including reports of adverse events involving use of delta-8 products and risks of exposure to toxic byproducts.

Numerous studies have found that adolescent cannabis use is associated with [adverse effects](#) on learning, memory, and attention; changes in brain development; and the development of [cannabis use disorder](#) and other [psychiatric disorders](#), such as depression, psychosis and suicidality. There are no existing medications to treat cannabis use disorder, and current treatments are primarily through psychosocial interventions, such as cognitive behavioral therapy. More research is needed to understand how delta-8, specifically, impacts these and other health outcomes.

This analysis of Monitoring the Future survey results also found that approximately 14% of 12th graders in the South and 15% in the Midwest reported delta-8 use, compared to 10% in the Northeast and 5% in the West. Around 14% of those in states without cannabis legalization reported delta-8 use, compared to 8% in states with legalization. In states without existing delta-8 regulations, 14% reported use compared to 6% in states with delta-8 legislation.

"Delta-8 products are out there where teens can easily find and buy them, and there needs to be continued surveillance of its use, as well as public health efforts to help youth and parents stay informed and safe," said Alyssa Harlow, Ph.D., MPH, clinical assistant professor of population and public health sciences at the University of Southern California (USC), a member of the USC Institute for Addiction Science and lead author of the study.

"The national trends documented by the Monitoring the Future survey provide critical information for research and policy to keep pace with new developments in the market for cannabis products, which has seen considerable change in recent years," said Richard A. Miech, Ph.D., team lead of the Monitoring the Future study at the University of Michigan and co-author of the study.



Because the survey is taken in school settings, students who were absent, not enrolled, or with less engagement in school – a known risk factor for drug use – may have been less likely to participate in the survey, the investigators note. This exclusion may have potentially led to an underestimation of adolescent use of delta-8. Future work will need to assess delta-8 use in younger teens; include a larger survey sample across a wider range of states; and examine the use of other hemp-derived products, including delta-9 and delta-10.

The Monitoring the Future survey is given annually to students in classrooms in eighth, 10th, and 12th grades who self-report their substance use behaviors over various time periods, such as past 30 days, past 12 months, and lifetime. In 2023, the survey included questions on delta-8 for the first time, and they were administered to a randomly selected one-third of 12th grade students, resulting in 2,186 12th graders in 27 states. Given the prevalence of use found in the 2023 survey, questions on delta-8 have been added to future surveys for all age groups.



Learn About How *THC is Changing*

We are so excited to share our *THC is Changing* campaign! The creation of THC is Changing was created in response to increased community need for resources addressing novel, or new and emerging, THC products produced and sold in Wisconsin. The THC is Changing Campaign is driven by the Northwoods Coalition Advisory Board THC ad-hoc committee. The images and design were created by the Creative Services team at Marshfield Clinic Health System.

This campaign was created to educate the influencers of youth about the potential health hazards THC may cause while youth are targeted with the newest THC-infused products. Tetrahydrocannabinol or THC is the chemical in the cannabis plant that is responsible for psychoactive qualities when consumed. A loophole in the 2018 Farm Bill allows the sale of products containing a certain level of THC in Wisconsin. These products can be purchased by anyone, including youth, in most Wisconsin counties.

DELTA-8 THC LEGALITY

